

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-24, 26, 27, and new claim 28 are pending. Claims 5, 10, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 13, 18-22, 24, and 27 have been amended. Claim 28, which includes subject matter of original claims 12 and 14, has been added.

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

It is submitted that claim 20, as amended herein, is in proper form.

Claims 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

It is submitted that claims 21-27, as amended herein, are in proper form.

Claims 3, 6-18, and 21-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

It is submitted that claims 3, 6-18, and 21-27, as amended herein, are in proper form.

Claims 1-4, 12, 13, 17, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeung et al. (US 6,387,234 B1) in view of Chen (US 5,139,630).

Independent claims 1, 12, 20, and 21 have been amended. It is submitted that no combination of Yeung and Chen discloses or suggests the invention set forth therein.

Claims 6-9, 11, 18, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeung et al. (US 6,387,234 B1) in view of Liu (US 5,228,690).

Independent claims 6, 18, and 27 have been amended. It is submitted that no combination of Yeung and Liu discloses or suggests the invention set forth therein.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneider et al. (US 6,537,432) in view of Chen (US 5,139,630).

Claim 19 has been amended. It is submitted that no combination of Schneider and Chen discloses or suggests the invention of claim 19.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the rejections in the Office Action have been overcome. Insofar as the foregoing comments with respect to the independent claims are equally applicable to their respective dependent claims, the rejections of the dependent claims are also believed to have been overcome for at least this reason.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited in this case taken individually or in

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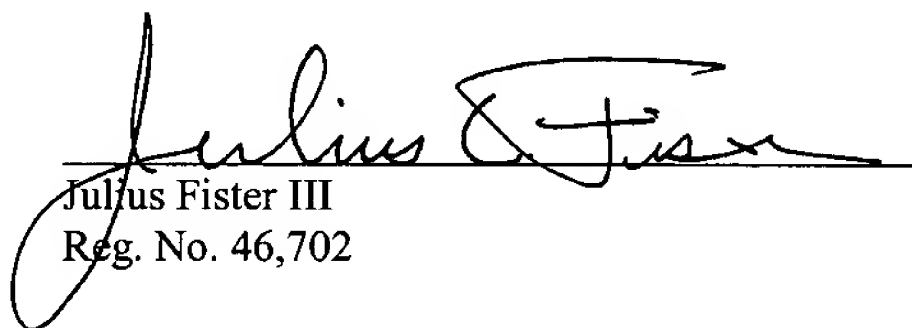
combination neither discloses nor suggests the present invention. Thus, the claims as presented and amended herein are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Fees for a 2 month extension of time and for a new claim are believed due. A check for \$210.00 is enclosed. Please charge any additional fees to deposit account no. 06-1050.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this case, then Applicants respectfully request a personal or telephonic interview to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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